

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 4, 14-15, 19-20, 34-35, 42, and 46 have been amended. Claim 45 has been canceled. Presented below is a complete list of claims with changes marked up:

1. (Currently Amended) An automotive storage and playback device for coupling to an automobile comprising:

a first wireless transceiver to receive digital content automatically from a computer system via a wireless local area network based on user defined preferences input into the computer system, the first wireless transceiver communicably coupled to the wireless local area network when the first wireless transceiver is within range of a second wireless transceiver associated with the computer system, wherein the computer system is located externally and remotely with respect to the automobile and obtains at least a portion of the digital content while
b1 Cont - the first wireless transceiver is outside the range of the second wireless transceiver; and

a converter to convert the digital content to be sent to and played on an output device in the automobile.

2. (Currently Amended) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ further comprising control firmware to cause the first wireless transceiver to broadcasts a discovery message periodically and automatically when the automobile is turned off to discover a system control application in the computer system for the purpose of transferring the digital content.

3. (Previously Presented) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 1 wherein the first wireless transceiver receives the digital content periodically at times designated according to the user defined preferences input into the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 1 wherein ~~the first wireless transceiver receives the digital content~~ is transferred to the automotive storage and playback device in response to a user action at the computer system.

5. (Previously Presented) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 1 further comprising a storage and datalink unit coupled with the first wireless transceiver, the storage and datalink unit to receive the digital content from the first wireless transceiver and convert the digital content into at least one of binary data and instructions.

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Const - 6. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 5 further comprising a head unit coupled to the storage and data link unit via at least one cable.

7. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 6 wherein the head unit comprises:

a stereo sound processor;

an audio mixer coupled with the stereo sound processor;

a pre-amplifier coupled with the audio mixer;

an amplifier coupled with the pre-amplifier;

a tuner coupled to an antennae attached to the automobile; and

a user interface.

8. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 7 wherein the head unit further comprises:

a compact disc drive coupled with the stereo sound processor; and

an audiocassette drive coupled with the stereo sound processor.

9. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 1 wherein the digital content includes at least one of a music file, a text file, an image file, a video file, and an interactive multimedia file.

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10. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 5 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a battery.

11. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 5 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a temperature-based control system.

12. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 5 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a vibration dampening system.

13. (Original) The automotive storage and playback device of claim 12 wherein the vibration dampening system includes two elastomeric suspension caps.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a computer system communicably coupled to the wireless local area network, the computer system automatically obtaining, storing, and sending digital content via a wireless local area network to an automotive storage and playback device when the automotive storage and playback device includes a wireless transceiver that is within range of the wireless local area network, the computer system obtaining the digital content from a wide area network, based on user defined preferences input into the computer system, while the wireless local area network is not within range of the wireless transceiver of the automotive storage and playback device.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the computer system comprises a system control application to sends the digital content automatically in response to control firmware on the automotive storage and playback device broadcasting a discovery message to the system control application, when the automobile coupled to the automotive storage and playback device is turned off.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the computer system sends the digital content periodically at times designated according to the user defined preferences input into the computer system.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the computer system sends the digital content in response to a user action at the computer system.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the computer system comprises:

a system control application to manage and control the transfer of the digital content; and
a user interface.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring digital content to an automobile comprising:

an automotive storage and playback device for coupling to the automobile, the automotive storage and playback device including a first wireless transceiver to automatically receive digital content via a wireless local area network, the automotive storage and playback device coupled to an output device in the automobile that is capable of playing the digital content; and

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Cont - a computer system communicably coupled to the wireless local area network and remotely located with respect to the automotive storage and playback device, the computer system automatically obtaining, storing, and sending the digital content via a wireless local area network to the automotive storage and playback device when the automotive storage and playback device includes a wireless transceiver that is within range of the wireless local area network, the computer system obtaining the digital content from a wide area network, based on user defined preferences input into the computer system, while the wireless local area network is not within range of the wireless transceiver of the automotive storage and playback device.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the control firmware on the automotive storage and playback device broadcasts a discovery message periodically and automatically for the purpose of synchronizing content from a system control application on the computer system when the automobile is turned off.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the automotive storage and playback device receives the digital content periodically at times designated according to the user defined preferences input into the computer system.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the automotive storage and playback device receives the digital content in response to a user action at the computer system.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the computer system comprises:
a system control application to manage and control the transfer of the digital content; and
a user interface.

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24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 further comprising a storage and datalink unit coupled with the first wireless transceiver to receive the digital content from the first wireless transceiver and convert the digital content into at least one of binary data and instructions.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a head unit coupled to the storage and data link unit via at least one cable.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the head unit comprises:
a stereo sound processor;
an audio mixer coupled with the stereo sound processor;
a pre-amplifier coupled with the audio mixer;

an amplifier coupled with the pre-amplifier;

a tuner coupled to an antennae attached to the automobile; and

a user interface.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the head unit further comprises:

a compact disc drive coupled with the stereo sound processor; and

an audiocassette drive coupled with the stereo sound processor.

28. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the digital content includes at least one of a music file, a text file, an image file, a video file, and an interactive multimedia file.

29. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the wide area network is Internet.

30. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a battery.

31. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a temperature-based control system.

32. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the storage and datalink unit includes a vibration dampening system.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the vibration dampening system includes two elastomeric suspension caps.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring digital content to an automotive storage and playback device ~~capable of being detachably~~ coupled to an automobile comprising:

communicably coupling the automotive storage and playback device to a local area network when the automotive storage and playback device is within range of a wireless local area network; and

receiving digital content automatically from a remote computer system via the wireless local area network, based on user defined preferences input in the computer system, ~~based on user defined preferences input into the remote computer system~~ while the wireless local area network is not within range of the wireless transceiver of the automotive storage and playback device, wherein the digital content was obtained by the remote computer system from a wide area network.

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35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein receiving digital content includes control firmware broadcasting a discovery message periodically and automatically when the automobile is turned off for the purpose of synchronizing content with a system control application on computer system.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein receiving digital content includes receiving the digital content periodically at times designated according to the user defined preferences input into the computer system.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein receiving digital content includes receiving the digital content in response to a user action.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising decompressing and converting the digital content into at least one of binary data and instructions.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising transferring the converted content to an output device in the automobile.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 further comprising playing the converted content on the output device.

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Cont 41. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the digital content includes at least one of a music file, a text file, an image file, a video file, and an interactive multimedia file.

42. (Currently Amended) An automotive storage and playback device for coupling to an automobile comprising:

control firmware; and

a wireless transceiver to receive digital content automatically from a computer system via a wireless local area network, wherein the control firmware and the wireless transceiver cooperate to broadcast ~~broadcasting~~ a discovery message automatically and periodically when the automobile is turned off.

43. (Previously Presented) The storage and playback device from Claim 42 wherein the digital content is acquired automatically by the computer system.

44. (Previously Presented) The storage and playback device from Claim 42 wherein the digital content is based on user-defined preferences input into the computer system.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture having one or more recordable media with executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a system, causes the system to perform a method comprising:

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causing a transfer of digital content from a computer system to an automotive storage and playback device; and

causing the automotive storage and playback device to periodically and automatically send one or more messages via a wireless transceiver to the computer system when the car is turned off, wherein at least a portion of the digital content was obtained from a wide area network while the wireless local area network is not within range of the wireless transceiver of the automotive storage and playback device, and further wherein selection of the digital content to obtain is based on user defined preferences input into the remote computer system.
